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NOTICE REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

What are the requirements to earn a high school diploma?

To be eligible to receive a high school diploma, a high school student must meet ALL graduation requirements. Students in the class of 2015 must earn the required number of credits and pass all sections of the High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE).

Students with Certificates of Attendance previously were able to participate in graduation ceremonies. Why can't my student participate in graduation if he/she earned the necessary credits?

Certificates of Attendance were previously awarded in Nevada to students who had earned the necessary credits but were unable to pass their HDPE. Students awarded a Certificate of Attendance were allowed to participate in their high school graduation ceremonies.

The Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill 288 in 2013 to eliminate the Certificate of Attendance, starting with the class of 2014. With the elimination of the Certificate of Attendance, many school districts have decided that students who are not receiving a diploma may not walk in their graduation ceremony. This decision is made at the school district level, not by the Nevada Department of Education.

What options are available for students who cannot graduate in June?

Every student has the potential to graduate with a diploma, walk across the graduation stage and celebrate with family. Students should contact their guidance counselor to discuss the following options that may be available and to work out an individual graduation plan to earn a diploma:

- A final sitting of the HSPE is offered in July. Many school districts offer "boot camps" and study sessions to prepare for the exam.
- Students who pass the HSPE in July can participate in summer graduation ceremonies that may be offered in the school district.
- An alternative assessment is available for some students unable to pass the Science portion of the HSPE.
- Students can return to school in the fall for a "fifth senior year" to retake the HSPE.